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Vol VII

**Dear Brethren in Christ.**

BANGKOK, SIAM, July 1st. 1842.

The time has now come for us to address you again, according to our own proposal, making known to you the state and prospects of the Redeemer's kingdom among this dark hearted people. As it is our desire to obtain frequent communications from our brethren of the neighboring missions, for the purpose of increasing our interest in their labors, and of affording us an opportunity of praying intelligibly for them, so it is our wish to awaken in them a like interest in the progress of truth in this kingdom, and elicit their prayers on our behalf. In reviewing the dealings of God with this mission the last six months, we feel that we have much reason for exercising devout gratitude toward him; for he has been with us, according to his own most precious promise, "Lo I am with you always." Aside from the sickness mentioned in our last letter, he has afforded us a good measure of health and strength, to pursue our work of proclaiming the news of salvation to this idolatrous people. He has also protected us from becoming a prey, to whatever hatred or malice may have been excited in the hearts of this people, by the presentation of the truths of the gospel. The hand of persecution has not been raised against us, but we have had the privilege, as formerly, of pursuing our work unmolested. So far as we can ascertain, the government are favorably disposed toward us, and the priesthood seem not to be particularly jealous of us. God has also bestowed upon us as great a measure of the comforts of life, as we could reasonably expect to enjoy in a heathen land. For these tokens of his love we feel that praise is his due, and we ask you to join us in thanksgiving and praise to him.

From the account given in our last letter of the sickness of Mr. French, you will be anxious to know the result of the same. He continued slowly to decline till the morning of February 14th., when we trust his happy spirit took its flight, to join its kindred spirits in the skies. He was confined to his house not quite four months previous to his death, during which time he enjoyed much of the presence of the Savior, and gave very pleasing evidence to us all that he was fast ripening for heaven. His end was peaceful and triumphant. In the near approach of death, he was enabled to bear witness to those around him, of the grace of God which had sustained him in his protracted sickness. His afflicted widow and infant son are still with us. The providence of God permitting, Mrs. F. hopes to render herself useful to the cause of Christ here, by engaging in the teaching of native children.

Early in the month of January our new Chapel was completed, and although small, affords us a very commodious place of worship at the present time. It is a building 26 by 18 feet, with a verandah six feet wide on one side. It is hoped that the fact of our having a comfortable place of worship, will operate favorably toward increasing the number of those who worship regularly with us.

On the first Sabbath in March, we received to the mission Ch. one of the printing--office men by the name of Mo. He is one of the four mentioned in our last letter, as having been examined and put on probation, and he is the youngest. He is about 18 or 20 years of age. The fact of his being willing, publicly and alone, to cast off the badge of idolatry, and profess his faith in Christ, together with his apparent anxiety to do so, led us to hope that he was a real disciple of Christ. Most of the time since he joined the Church, he has been with us, and gives us reason to believe that he is what he professes to be. He is at present a very useful compositor, and we hope that he may eventually be useful as a helper in our labors. The others of that number give painful evidence that they know not the Savior.

Missionary labors in the Siamese department of the mission have been briefly the following.

Mr. Robinson has been engaged, as usual, in the translation of the Scriptures, and has prepared and printed John's gospel, the epistles of John, and Paul's epistle to the Colossians. He has now in press the book of Genesis. Besides these, he has reprinted a copy of the Ten Commandments, and a tract entitled Faith and Practice. In addition to these labors, he has continued to hold one service at the Chapel on the Sabbath, preaching to a congregation averaging from thirty to forty. He has also attended morning worship daily with the men in the employ of the mission.

Dr. Bradley has continued his preaching and tract distribution at the tract house, with quite as good prospects of usefulness as heretofore. His congregation on the Sabbath, although very fluctuating, has averaged 30 the last six months. With the men in the employ of the mission, he has attended evening worship daily, and on Sabbath evening preaches to them at the Chapel. In addition to these labors, he has prepared for the press and printed the following tracts, viz. the 4th. Part of O. T. Hist., History of Esther, Parable of the Wheat and Tares, Evils of Intoxicating Drink, and the Prodigal Son. He has reprinted a second edition of Patty Parsons translated by Mrs. Bradley. He has also had charge of the type foundery, in which a new and improved font of Siamese type is preparing, which it is believed will much diminish the expense of printing, principally in regard to paper. It is much smaller than any font now in use here. He has also spent a portion of every day, Sabbaths excepted, for the benefit of the sick who apply at the dispensary. The old floating house, formerly occupied as a Chapel, has been recently fitted up for the purposes of a dispensary, and affords a very convenient place for treating the sick.

Mr. Caswell is still using the means for gathering schools among the Siamese, which have not as yet, been very successful. He has had a few lads connected with his family, which have formed a sort of manual labor school. The boys labor some more than half of the day, in folding and stitching books for the bindery. The remaining part of the day they are engaged with their books, and are making pleasing progress. Most of them have learned to read, since they have entered upon this plan, and are now prepared to enter upon the study of a Siamese Geography. For the last five months, Mr. Caswell has also had a day school at the tract house, composed of Siamo-Chinese lads, averaging ten or eleven. The object has been to teach the boys their own language, and at the same time, give them such a knowledge of the Siamese language, as to enable them to read our religious books, and listen intelligibly to preaching in Siamese. This school was opened at the earnest request of a number of Chinese families in the vicinity of the tract house, and in regard to its numbers, and the improvement and regular attendance of the boys, it has succeeded beyond our expectation. Mr. Caswell has engaged in other labors, such as preaching, tract distribution, and preparation of books for the press, as he has had time and strength.

About a year since he removed his family to the tract house, for the purpose of deciding the question, whether it can be occupied by any one of the mission families. The experiment has been thoroughly made, and it is now quite certain that it is unsafe, in point of health, to make it a residence. He has lately removed his family into the mission compound.

Mr. Hemenway has been principally engaged in the study of the language. Some portion of his time, however, has been spent in the distribution of tracts, and preaching away from the city. These excursions into the country have not occupied more than one day, at any one time. The object has been to visit families residing on the margin of the smaller canals, and distribute christian books among them, as well as to those wats which are not often visited by the christian missionary. In these excursions, his teacher has sometimes accompanied him, and rendered important service both in explaining the object of such excursions to the people, and in criticising

the performance of preaching. He has also continued to instruct the Bible class on sabbath P. M., which is composed of men in the employ of the mission, and mission families. This class has averaged about 18, and a good degree of interest has been evinced by its members, considering the fact that they are most of them ignorant heathen.

Mr. Johnson, although properly belonging to the Chinese department of the mission, has been connected with the Siamese department, in consequence of the state of his health and voice. He has rendered very important service in this department, by superintending the printing-office and bindery. His health is now much improved, and his voice so far restored, as to enable him to take some part in social worship. He cherishes the hope of soon returning and resuming his labors in the Chinese department, as his labors are very much needed in that department at the present time.

Labors in the Chinese department of the mission have been as follows.

Mr. Peet has been the only one in this department, and consequently has had to struggle with many obstacles, growing out of the difficulty of the language, and the low state of the department. He has pursued the study of the Chinese, and at the same time superintended a boarding school of Chinese lads connected with his family. This school has averaged some 12 or 14, during the last six months, and bids fair, with the blessing of God, to make a very useful school. Thus far, the boys have attended principally to the study of their own language. Some attention, however, has been bestowed, to teach them sacred music, and some of the rudiments of the English language. It is contemplated, hereafter, to give them such a knowledge of English, as to open the way for their becoming acquainted with the sciences. Recently, the mission have adopted new rules for the management of this school, which we trust will have a very important influence upon its stability and improvement. These rules are the following. 1st. That the parents of the present members of the school, be required to give the Principal a written contract, binding their sons to remain in the school for the time they had been verbally promised. 2nd. That all who hereafter become members of it, shall give a contract to remain not less than five years. Mr. Peet has also commenced printing in Chinese. Since the month of March, he has reprinted an edition of Milne's Catechism, 1st. Part, and a small Geography. And the blocks for the 2nd. Part of Milne's Catechism have been ordered. It is thought that printing in Chinese can be done here at a cheaper rate, than at any other place in S. E. Asia.

From what has been said above, it will be seen that no very great improvement has been made in gathering schools, since our last letter, especially among the Siamese. We very much desire to see the time, when flourishing schools shall be brought under our influence, and children shall be put in the way of becoming helpers in our labors. We hope that the facilities for so doing, will increase year by year.

During the last six months, we have had two presses in operation most of the time. One, principally employed in printing the Bible, and the other in printing tracts and school books. The first part of a Siamese Geography by Mrs. Robinson, has lately come from the press. The whole number of pages issued from the press since our last letter, is 1,200,144, 12 mo. Of tracts in Siamese and Chinese, 926,144 pages, 12 mo. Of portions of the Scripture 192,000 pages, 12 mo. Of school books, 82,000 pages, 12 mo. How many tracts and portions of the Bible have been distributed, we have not the means, at present, of knowing. But some considerable labor has been bestowed in this way. We have now on hand a larger assortment of books for distribution, than we have ever had in our depository before, and we hope from time to time to multiply their number and variety. We regard them as furnishing important auxiliaries to us, in proclaiming the gospel to this idolatrous people. And the fewness of our numbers, as well as the enervating influence of this climate, bespeak the necessity of making the most economical use of such aids, in our laborious work. The facilities for distributing books throughout this kingdom are very great. Boats come often from various parts of it, to this city, for purposes of trade, and after remaining awhile, return homewards. By furnishing them with books, we can send the gospel to many places, where it might not be safe for us to venture. But while we make use of these auxiliaries in our work, we would do it, depending upon the blessing of God, to render them a means of effecting the good we desire. We would depend upon them too, not as a primary, but as a subordinate means, never substituting them for the oral preaching of the gospel, where that can be had. Respecting the results of our labors, we can say but little. It is emphatically a seed time with us, and when the harvest will appear, to the joy of God's servants in this dark land, we know not. We labor in hope. We sow in hope, and leave the results with our kind heavenly Father. We know that the precious grain will not be lost, but that it will spring up, eventually, and bring forth fruit, to the praise of sovereign grace. We would therefore be diligent in sowing the seed, early and late, since we know not which will prosper, whether this or that.

Our brethren of other Boards, laboring here, are pursuing their labors with diligence, and vigor, and we trust with the approbation and blessing of God.

The members of the Baptist Mission are Messrs. Jones, Davenport, Goddard and their wives, with the widow of Mr. Slafter. Mr. Dean of the Baptist Mission left us in Feb., on account of impaired health, and has gone to seek a station in some part of China. When last heard from, he had arrived at Macao with health much improved.

Mr. Buell and wife of the Presbyterian Mission are still laboring alone, but with the hope of soon being reenforced by one or two families.

We have recently heard of the embarrassed state of the funds of the Am. Board, and we feel like entering upon any measures of curtailment, compatible with our circumstances. We have already decided to disband the Chinese day school at the tract house, at the close of the present month. And we shall endeavor so to shape our plans, as that our expenditures shall not exceed the amount allowed us by the Board.

Dear Brethren, pray for us, that we may enjoy continually the rich effusions of the Holy Spirit ourselves, and secure his gracious influences upon those for whose salvation we labor. Do not forget us at your Monthly Concert. Let us, then, have a special remembrance in your prayers. Yours in the bonds of Christ Jesus.

In behalf of the Mission of the A. B. C. F. M. in Siam.

My next letter I hope to address to my dear afflicted Parents at the Elbow — — — England — we will put an insertion likeness of your son, to Rise by a letter Mr Mearsey. It may help you recollection of his features — You can Pray it by the next of Monday.

Bangkok Siam Aug 2. 1842.

My Dearly Beloved Brother. An unexpected opportunity of writing to America having presented itself. I feel that I must write you a few lines though I am obliged to write very much hastily. The general aspect of our affairs you may learn from the printed letter in this mail by brother Hemenway with the approbation of the brethren. Things still remain much in the same state as at the date of the above communication. Since then however there has been an important change in my own circumstances. On the 1st of July that highly interesting and joyous day on which my dearly beloved Mary left me. I doubt not for heaven. I left the apartment from which she first ventured out to the bosom of our Saviour and again took up my residence in the family of Bro. Post preparatory to resuming my labors among the Chinese, my voice being so much improved as to encourage me in the hope that I might again labor in that my chosen field of my first wife. There is no name so dear to me as that by which you dear accustomed to call her Mary. To me no thoughts of her no name is so dear to my bleeding heart as that which she bore in her father's house in Albany. It is the name appended to her numerous letters to myself which I put in her notes hand. In these she subscribed herself Your Mary. But though the name is still inexpressibly dear to my oft desolate heart I may no longer call her mine. She was for a little season the light of my heart and the light of my eyes but she is gone for she is strictly his the purchase of his blood the subject of his sanctifying grace. So much as Mona and Mary were the objects of my affection as necessary to my earthly bliss as was their presence and duty and carefully as I daily put them both. I would not for my heart recall them to earth as thus as it were pluck two precious jewels from my Saviours crown. His they are and his they ever have been and in thus early calling them to himself he took but what is an unjust man to be given. I doubt not my dear mother much also your feelings touching your beloved Mary. Could you have seen Mary and drank into her spirit you would have scarcely wished her up.

In her person Maria would have seemed to you to have been restored to your afflicted son. But I trust that ere long he shall again see both in a more glorious, happy form. How does dear Sister Julia bear her more afflictions? Does the consolations of Christ strong in her? Is the Like holy apostle exceeding joyful in all her tribulations? greatly bless from her God for your natures? I should I think I can and do sympathize with you as perhaps few can, because I have known what it is to be afflicted in a christian and in a heathen land. In the latter judging from my own experience the trial of a wounded




poor a broken companion is much more severe than at home. for there there are many alleviating circumstances that can not here be enjoyed. But let us not too I have been reminded of late that the Lord will give me grace equal to my day. My voice continues lowly to improve although subject to a worse trial than before my change of residence, and my general health, though not robust is comfortable. I think increasing improvement is regarded as a token for good. I do not regret having come out this spring at this time, though I have been severely and deeply afflicted. I would like to hear regarding your visit to your children and my father. If you are permitted to call on